

The NCVEC petition does not provide any evidence that Element I (5 wpm morse) greatly reduces the number of applicants for MF and HF.

This petition also states the Element I testing is a burden to the VEC system. As a VE I find this statement preposterous. Can we also assume all exam elements are a burden to the system? What does the NCVEC propose to do? Only collect license fees without administering exams?

The petition also states that morse code is done by rote memorization. With the answers to all the exams in the public domain, as a VE I have witnessed the majority of candidates who do nothing but rote memorization of the test questions with the answers. Most candidates therefore have no technical knowledge of radio theory that this petition states they have.

I recommend this petition be rejected mainly because it is not based on fact but on political hyperbol within the amateur service. If the NCVEC truly cared for the technical expertise of the amateur radio service, it would propose the elimination of Element I and institute a more comprehensive technical syllabus and exam for each element.